



The Latest

Additional alternative corridors have been studied south of the Columbia area, in Monroe and St. Clair counties. Following the November 2003 public informational meetings, feedback from environmental agencies, local officials, and the general public helped the study team determine the need for additional options in this area. The study area has been expanded to accommodate the new alternatives (see map at right).

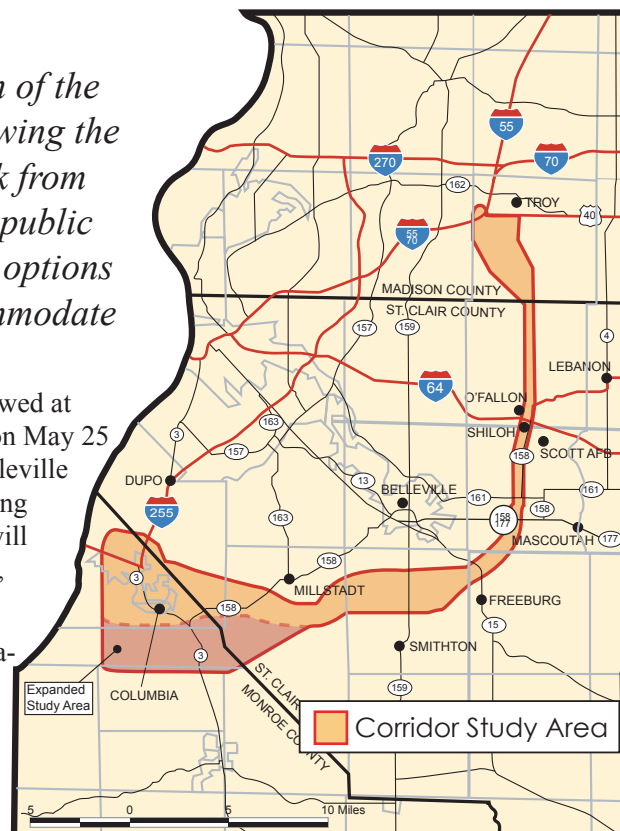
Along with the alternatives presented at the November 2003 public meetings, these new alternatives give the study team a greater number of options to evaluate in order to select a corridor that:

- Minimizes environmental impacts, such as to the Stemler Cave recharge area, sinkhole topography and water quality of the area, and potential endangered species habitats
- Avoids existing and planned residential areas
- Addresses existing and projected traffic volumes and patterns
- Provides consistency with the region's growth and development trends

The new alternatives can be viewed at public informational meetings on May 25 in Columbia and May 27 in Belleville (see page 2 for details). Following the public meetings, the maps will be posted to the project website, www.gatewayconnector.com.

Until an evaluation of all alternatives has taken place, none of the alternative corridors have been selected or are preferred.

It is important to keep in mind that the alternatives illustrate preliminary, conceptual options for a corridor and not the corridor's final location.





GatewayConnector

Planning Now For The Future □



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

Newsletter 3 □

Spring 2004

Public Informational Meetings

Mark your calendar for the next series of public meetings:

May 25, 2004 – 4 - 7 pm

The Falls Reception and
Conference Center

300 Admiral Weinel Boulevard, Columbia

May 27, 2004 – 4 - 7 pm

Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC)
Intramural Gym

2500 Carlyle Avenue, Belleville

The purpose of these meetings will be to present the new Columbia-area alternatives for public examination and comment. Like the public meetings in

2003, the meetings will be held in an “open-house” format – no formal presentations will be made. You will be able to see the new alternative corridors and other pertinent study information.

IDOT and consultant team members will be on hand to answer your questions, discuss the study, and listen to your comments and concerns.

Comment forms will be provided for you to fill out at the meeting or return to the study team by mail. You are encouraged to attend and provide your input.

Keep In Touch With Us

IDOT appreciates the patience and participation of all interested citizens during this additional important step and throughout the study. We encourage you to keep in touch so that we can answer your questions and address your concerns.

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